

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, UR, GE

SUBJECT: THE 25TH CPSU CONGRESS AND SOVIET-GDR MILITARY TIES

1. SED PARTY ORGAN NEUES DEUTSCHLAND FEBRUARY 27 GAVE
PROMINENT FRONT PAGE COVERAGE TO THE FEBRUARY 26TH MEETING
BETWEEN SED DELEGATION TO 25TH CPSU CONGRESS LED BY SED
FIRST SECRETARY HONECKER AND SOVIET MILITARY LEADERS TSHUKOV,
KULIKOV, IWANOVSKI, MEDNIKOV AND CHOMULO IN KREMLIN CONGRESS
PALACE. IN HIS REMARKS, HONECKER REPORTEDLY FOCUSED ON THE
SOVIET ARMY'S ROLE IN THE "LIBERATION" OF 1945 AND ON THE
1975 SOVIET-GDR TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP, COOPERATION AND MUTUAL
ASSISTANCE AS SYMBOLIC OF A FURTHER DEEPENING OF RELATIONS

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ON ALL LEVELS BETWEEN THE GDR AND THE SOVIET UNION.

2. THIS MEETING IS ONE OF SEVERAL OCCURRENCES DURING THE 25TH CPSU CONGRESS THAT HAVE PLAYED UP MILITARY TIES BETWEEN THE GDR AND USSR. THE SED'S OFFICIAL GIFT TO THE 25TH CONGRESS, A STATUE TITLED, "LIBERATION", DEDICATED TO THE "LIBERATION THROUGH THE GLORIOUS SOVIET ARMY," HAS RECEIVED PRIME COVERAGE IN THE GDR PRESS, AS HAS A CEREMONY FEBRUARY 27 IN THE CENTRAL HOUSE OF THE SOVIET ARMY IN HONOR OF THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GDR NATIONAL PEOPLE'S ARMY (NVA).

3. COMMENT: EMPHASIS ON THE SOVIET ARM'S IN WORLD WAR II AND ON THE RECENT SOVIET-GDR TREATY HAS BEEN COMMON-PLACE IN GDR MEDIA DURING THE PAST MONTHS. THE 25TH CPSU CONGRESS AND CURRENT NVA ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS AFFORD THE LATEST IN A SERIES OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE SED TO PROTRAY THE SOVIET-GDR MILITARY ALLIANCE AS FUNDAMENTAL TO THE FOUNDING AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE GDR. ONE FIGURE ABSENT FROM THE SED DELEGATION IN MOSCOW IS POLITBURO MEMBER GENERAL HEINZ HOFFMANN WHO STAYED BEHIND IN EAST BERLIN TO SPEAK AT AN NVA CEREMONY ON FEBRUARY 27. COOPER

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